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VD

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/229,283 01/13/99 FISCHER

D 48012

HM12/0118

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EXAMINER

UNGAR, S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1642

7

DATE MAILED:

01/18/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/229,283

Applicant(s)
Fisher

Examiner
Ungar

Group Art Unit
1642



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jan 20, 1999

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire one month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☒ Claims 1-12 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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1. Claims 1-12 are pending in the application and are currently under prosecution.

This application contains sequence disclosures that are encompassed by the definitions for nucleotide and/or amino acid sequences set forth in 37 CFR 1.8821 (a)(1) and (a)(2). However, this application fails to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.821 through 1.825 for the reasons(s) set forth on the attached Notice to Comply with Requirements for Patent Applications Containing Nucleotide Sequence And/Or Amino Acid Sequence Disclosures.

Applicant is given ONE MONTH, or THIRTY DAYS, whichever is longer from the date of this letter within which to comply with the sequence rules, 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in ABANDONMENT of the application under 37 CFR 1.821 (g). Extensions of time may be obtained by filing a petition accompanied by the extension fee under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no case may an applicant extend the period for response beyond the SIX MONTH statutory period. Direct the response to the undersigned. Applicant is requested to return a copy of the attached Notice to Comply with the response.

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

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Group I. Claims 1-4 are drawn to a method for diagnosing melanoma, classified in Class 435, subclasses 4, 6 and 7.1.

Group II. Claims 5-7 and 11-12 are drawn to a method of identifying melanoma cells classified in Class 435, subclasses 4, 6 and 7.1.

Group III. Claims 8 and 9 are drawn to a kit comprising 2 primers for PCR classified in Class 536, subclass 23.1.

Group IV. Claims 8 and 10 are drawn to a kit comprising an antibody and a reagent that identifies binding of antibody classified in Class 530, subclass 287.1.

3. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and III are materially distinct methods which differ at least in objectives, method steps, reagents and/or dosages and/or schedules used, response variables, and criteria for success.

Inventions III and IV as disclosed are biologically and chemically distinct, unrelated in structure and function, made by and used in different methods and are therefore distinct inventions.

The inventions of Groups III/IV and I/II are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (I) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (ii) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product [see *MPEP* § 806.05(h)]. In the

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instant case the primer products as claimed can be used in a materially different process such as affinity chromatography.

The inventions of Groups III/IV and I/II and III/VII are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (I) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (ii) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product [see *MPEP* § 806.05(h)]. In the instant case the antibody and reagents for determination of binding as claimed can be used in a materially different process such as antigens for the production of antibodies.

4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification and/or recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

5. Group I is further subject to election of a single disclosed species.

Claims 1 is generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising probes with different structures and functions wherein the probe is an (a) antibody (claim 2), (b) a nucleic acid (claim 3).

6. Group II is further subject to election of a single disclosed species.

Claims 5 is generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising methods for determining if a malignant cell is a melanoma with probes with different structures and functions wherein the probe is an (a) antibody (claim 6), (b) a nucleic acid (claim 7).

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7. Group II is further subject to election of a single disclosed species.

Claims 5 is generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising methods which are materially distinct methods which differ at least in objectives, method steps, reagents and/or dosages and/or schedules used, response variables, and criteria for success for determining whether a malignant cell is a melanoma comprising (a) measuring the level of Mi present in the nucleus (claim 11), (b) determining if Mi is being expressed in the nucleus and determining the activation state of the Mi in the nucleus.

8. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 of the other invention.

9. Applicant is advised that the response to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed.

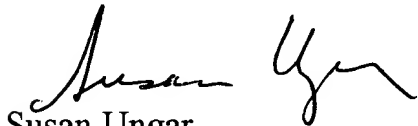
10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan Ungar, PhD whose telephone number is (703) 305-2181. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 4pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Hutzell, can be reached at (703) 308-4310. The fax phone number for this Art Unit is (703) 308-4242.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Effective, February 7, 1998, the Group and/or Art Unit location of your application in the PTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Group Art Unit 1642.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Ungar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Susan Ungar
Primary Patent Examiner
January 13, 2000